



The Veterans Administration Office of Inspector General was the investigating agency in Stiles' case and filed charges of healthcare fraud, theft of government property, false statements and committing an offense against the government, according to documents.

Stiles was reportedly confronted by the VA in April 2016 and admitted to lying about serving in the Marine Corps from 1995 to 2005, with a combat tour in March 2005, when he supposedly earned a Purple Heart medal, according to court documents.

Stiles first applied for VA healthcare benefits in November 2012 and was enrolled in the health benefits plan, giving him access to the Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center in Long Beach, California.

Between 2012 and 2016, Stiles received 692 outpatient treatments from the Veterans Health Administration, which was billed to the VA at a cost of \$194,526. From March to May 2016, Stiles also received \$3,771 in housing assistance.

Stiles received VA emergency care for a life-threatening grand mal seizure, according to documents. While the VA has a humanitarian policy in place to care for non-veterans who require hospitalization — billed at a rate higher than for veterans — Stiles misrepresented himself as a veteran.

Stiles' attorney, Charles Farris, filed an objection to the sentencing memorandum, stating that while his client admits guilt, desperately sought to receive treatment for his legitimate ailments.

“Mr. Stiles acknowledges that this care that he received was an intended benefit for members of the armed forces, and as such, he committed fraud and ‘stole,’ so to speak, this care from others that needed it,” Farris wrote. “Mr. Stiles asks the Court to consider that he was desperate to begin fighting his mental health and substance abuse issues that have caused him problems his entire life.”

Attempts to defraud the government occur fairly regularly.

On Wednesday, the Department of Justice [announced](#) a New York man who stole tens of thousands of dollars-worth of guns from Chinappi's Firearms fraudulently claimed he was awarded two Purple Hearts in order to get a reduction in sentencing on a previous firearms case.

A California man was sentenced to four years in prison on Tuesday for his involvement in a [G.I. Bill scam at his trucking school](#).

In 2019, two Montana men who violated their probation in separate crimes [falsely claimed military service](#) in order to get their cases moved to a veterans court.

### **About [Jared Morgan](#)**

Jared is a freelance journalist and a veterans advocate living in Los Angeles. He's also a Marine Corps veteran who remained in Kuwait with support elements of HMLA-169 to support the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq and later deployed to Al Asad and Al Qa'im, Iraq in 2004 with the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing and 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit



Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III poses for a photo after being sworn in as secretary of defense, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., Jan. 22, 2021. (DoD/Lisa Ferdinando)

Military.com | By [Hope Hodge Seck](#)

Within the next 60 days, each of the military services will take time out of daily duties to discuss the problem of extremism and extremist ideology in the ranks, as military leaders seek to get a better sense of how widespread these belief systems are.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin III ordered the stand-down Wednesday morning in a meeting with all the military service secretaries and service chiefs, Pentagon spokesman John Kirby told reporters in an afternoon briefing. Kirby called the Jan. 6 pro-Trump riots at the U.S. Capitol, and the fact that many of those arrested were military veterans or currently serving, a "wake-up call" for Lloyd and the Defense Department

Lloyd, Kirby said, stressed to his military leaders that he believed the vast majority of those in uniform serve honorably and do not espouse the "kind of beliefs leading to the kinds of conduct that would be so detrimental to good order and discipline."

But, he said of extremists in the military, "although their numbers may be small, they may not be as small as we would like them to be or we would need them to be

It's not immediately clear how the stand-down will be structured or what each service and the tenant commands and units within will be required to do. More information is coming, Kirby said.

"We owe the force, we owe these leaders some training materials and some deeper, more specific guidance about how to conduct [the stand-down], what the expectations are and thoughts about how feedback can be provided," he said.

The new focus on extremism comes on the heels of recent efforts by the services to address racial inequalities and sexual harassment in the ranks. NPR reported that [one in five defendants](#) in cases linked to the Jan. 6 Capitol assault had ties to the military, a disproportionate number in that veterans make up only about 7% of the U.S. population.

Kirby indicated that leaders believe the number of those with right-wing extremist beliefs inside the military is small, although he added that it's difficult to track: While active participation in organizations deemed to be gangs or hate groups violates military policy, membership in the same groups is permitted and troops' belief systems are not policed.

"One of the challenges and one of the reasons we're trying to do this is, we don't know the full breadth and depth of it," he said. "We don't want to overestimate or underestimate the number. It may be more than [we believe] and probably a lot less than the media [makes it out to be]."

Austin, who became secretary of defense Jan. 22, may be mulling additional orders to the services in the near future aimed at promoting equality and addressing problems with the culture.

"I don't think at this point he's ruling anything out," Kirby said. "He made it clear to the leadership that he's still mulling how he wants to organize this and how he wants to attack it from an institutional perspective."

-- Hope Hodge Seck can be reached at [hope.seck@military.com](mailto:hope.seck@military.com). Follow her on Twitter at [@HopeSeck](https://twitter.com/HopeSeck).

## Veterans group launches podcast series for Black History Month on Black veterans and their mental health

The series will be made up of six podcasts, which will be released every Monday and Thursday during Black History Month. (Veterans Counseling Veterans)

Ellsworth “Tony” Williams, CEO of Veterans Counseling Veterans, has been concerned about the racial unrest the country is facing.

That’s why he and his organization are launching a podcast series for Black History Month to address veterans’ mental health issues through the lens of the Black community.

As a result, the series will discuss issues including how PTSD impacts Black veterans and their family members, Black veterans’ experience with military sexual trauma, and research related to Black veterans’ mental health.

“I believe understanding is the bridge to empathy,” Williams told Military Times. “And that’s what we’re lacking right now — the bridge to empathy.”

Altogether, six podcasts will be released to address or feature the following: Black Combat Female Veterans who chose mental health as their second career; Black Veterans and Military Sexual Trauma; Black Combat Veterans who chose mental health as their second career; Black Veterans, their Family and Mental Wellness; Black Veterans and Mental Health Research; Black Veteran Counselors and Mental Health.

Department of Veterans Affairs

## Free tax return preparation for Veterans, military members and their families



# Free Tax Preparation for Veterans

Tax season is here again, and it can be particularly tricky for military families. VA has partnered with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to ensure Veterans and service members receive free tax preparation and electronic filing services. Learn about the assistance services available to you!

Earlier this week, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) started accepting electronically filed tax returns as well as paper returns. The IRS reminds taxpayers that filing electronically is the most accurate and safest way to file a tax return, as well as the fastest way to get a refund.

The following links to free tax preparation services will ensure current and former members of the military and their families have access to free tax preparation and electronic filing services to keep more of their hard earned money.

- IRS' **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** and **Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE)** programs are available to taxpayers that earned less than \$53,000 in 2014. Over 3.5 million tax returns were prepared using these services in 2014. All tax returns completed through these programs are prepared by IRS certified volunteers so you can feel confident your tax return is accurate. There are over 12,000 locations where you can utilize these services. To find the closest location near you, simply enter your zip code into the easy-to-use **VITA/TCE Locator**.
- **MyFreeTaxes**, operating the only free online tax preparation and filing assistance platform available in all 50 states and Washington D.C., allows qualified Veterans, active-duty military, their families and all other qualifying taxpayers who earned \$60,000 or less in 2014 to file both a federal and state tax return no matter where they live. In addition to e-filing, MyFreeTaxes also provides in-person help to individuals and families earning \$60,000 or less in 2014. For more information, please visit: **www.myfreetaxes.com**. The MyFreeTaxes initiative is delivered in partnership by three nationally recognized nonprofits – Goodwill Industries International, National Disability Institute and United Way – and is sponsored by the Wal-Mart Foundation.

In addition to free tax preparation and assistance services like **VITA**, **TCE** and **MyFreeTaxes**, there are several other options qualifying Veterans and military families can utilize free of charge. However, please make note of additional eligibility requirements and be advised not all are available in your particular location. Check each for more information on eligibility and availability of services.

- **IRS.gov/FreeFile** is the one place where taxpayers can choose from a variety of industry-leading tax software options in order to prepare and e-file their federal tax returns at absolutely no cost. If you earned \$60,000 or less last year, you are

eligible to choose from among 14 software products. If you earned more, you are still eligible for **Free File Fillable Forms**, the electronic version of IRS paper forms. More than 70 percent of all taxpayers – 100 million people – are eligible for the software products. Each of the 14 companies has its own special offers, generally based on age, income or state residency. Taxpayers can review each company offer or they can use a “Help Me” tool that will find the software for which they are eligible. Free File offers easy-to-use products that ask questions and you supply the answers. The software will find the right forms, find the right tax credits and deductions and even do the math for you.

- **TurboTax Freedom Edition** is available to taxpayers with income of \$31,000 or less, or

Eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

- **TaxAct** is another IRS Free File option. To qualify for free tax preparation, printing, & e-filing, your adjusted gross income must be \$52,000 or less, and you must be between the ages of 18 through 58 years old.
- **H&R Block’s Free File** offers free online assistance if you earned \$58,000 or less, and if you were 53 years old or younger as of December 31, 2014.
- **Online Taxes (OLT)** offers free tax preparation if your Adjusted Gross Income is between \$13,000 and \$60,000 in 2014.

The following free online software companies are available exclusively to members of the military:

- **TurboTax Military Edition** created a software program specifically for service members. There is currently a free version for junior enlisted and a discount version for senior enlisted and officers.
- **Military OneSource** is once again offering a no-cost, electronic tax filing service. If you are eligible under the Military OneSource program, you can complete, save, and file your 2014 federal and up to three state returns online at no cost.
- **TaxSlayer Military** is available to all active duty military. You can prepare both your federal and state return for free with TaxSlayer Military Edition.

If you have already filed your taxes and want to know when you will receive your refund, don’t forget to download the IRS app, **IRS2Go!** This app is available in both English and Spanish and provides features to help taxpayers check on the status of their tax refund, obtain tax records, find free tax preparation providers and stay connected with the IRS through social media channels such as **YouTube** and **Twitter**.

iPhone and iTouch users can update or download the free **IRS2Go application** by visiting the **iTunes App Store**. Android users can visit **Google Play** to download the free **IRS2Go app**.



Posted on Thursday, January 22, 2015 9:45 am October 25, 2017 Posted in Guest Posts by Richard Keeling 79k views

*Please note that VA does not endorse any of these sites, but brings your attention to them as they have tax services available specifically for Veterans and military families*

**Veterans for Christ, Inc. does not endorse and is not responsible for the content of any external web site links. These sites are provided for informational purposes only**

## **Need to contact VA?**

[Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255](#) and press 1, [Chat](#), or Text 838255  
[Homeless Veteran Resources: 1-877-424-3838](#) or [Chat](#)  
[White House VA Hotline: 1-855-948-2311](#)

## **Don't know what number to call?**

[1-800-MyVA411](#) ([800-698-2411](#)) is never the wrong number



## **Verse of the Day**

*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. Acts 4:12 KJV*

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All Honorably Discharged Veterans are welcome to come and observe the VFC; feel free to ask questions and learn more. If we don't know the answer we know someone who does. Please browse our web site [www.veteransforchristinc.org](http://www.veteransforchristinc.org). There you'll find information on many subjects of interest to veterans. You'll also find a Newsletter for your branch of service and links to Social Security and many other links with an abundance of information.

Our monthly meetings are on hold until the pandemic is cleared and a vaccine is developed. No meetings are being held at the Wesley Chapel Library at 2861 Wesley Chapel Rd., Decatur, Ga. Our meetings are the fourth Thursday of every month and start at 6:30 (PM) for approximately one hour and a half, unless otherwise advertised. We will be respectful of your time. All meetings are cancelled until further notice because of the corona virus pandemic.

Thank you for your interest in the VFC. We look forward to communicating and fellowshiping with you soon. We are looking for a corporate sponsor for our VFC Gerald Prince College Scholarship which is donated each September at our Anniversary Luncheon

"Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, being men of courage, be strong." 1Cor 16:13

Sincerely,

*William A. Harris, Jr.*

William A. Harris, Jr., USAF Retired  
President, Veterans for Christ, Inc.  
[www.veteransforchristinc.org](http://www.veteransforchristinc.org)